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Chairman: Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 *(continued)* (A/60/6 (Introduction), A/60/6 (Sect. 1-28), A/60/6 (Sect. 28 A-G), A/60/6 (Sect. 29-35), A/60/6 (Income Sect. 1-3))

General discussion (continued)

1. **Mr. Diab** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the proposed programme budget should faithfully reflect the biennial budget plan, the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the principal international conferences. Results-based budgeting was still being developed and his delegation considered that, as in previous years when his delegation had been obliged to request a great deal of additional information, adequate details had not been provided in all sections of the proposed programme budget. Results-based budgeting was not an objective in itself but rather a tool for achieving greater accountability in implementing programmes in accordance with clear indicators of output. He wondered whether the proposed programme budget would cover all the legislative mandates in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter. His delegation noted with concern in that connection that extrabudgetary funding was increasing and now constituted 60 per cent of total resources. Recourse to extrabudgetary funding was not a stable means of funding the Organization.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic had always been in favour of allocating the necessary resources to implement legislative mandates effectively and it rejected the principle of zero-growth budgeting, which was not in accordance with the logic of the situation. Priorities and legislative mandates must determine the level of funding, and not the contrary.

3. All the priorities of the Organization had the same degree of importance and all States were members of the Fifth Committee. His delegation was therefore concerned that the statement made by the delegation of the United States of America the previous day implied that a single State wished to impose its own political agenda to the detriment of multilateral relations. The appeal made by the United States for a decrease in the cost and duration of meetings, including those of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies, was merely an effort to reduce their role and impair their status in order to promote the hege Security Council, which was not a democracy. That kind of appeal was not was an instance of double standard diminished the role of the Member Stat particularly the small countries and t countries, which had sacrificed so n independence and sovereignty on the ba The proposed programme budget also programme plan and the budget plan adopted by the General Assembly at session. The proposal not to fund contained in the programme plan would going back on a decision that had bee consensus.

4. The request for the phasing out Nations International Research and Tra for the Advancement of Women (INST regular programme of technical cooper move to restrict the resources of the U Environment Programme (UNEP) and were targeted mainly at the interests of t countries, which made up two thirds of th of the United Nations. Together with ot Syrian Arab Republic would oppose a prejudice those programmes. Moreover, by the United States of the Special Co was unjustified and contrary to the C United Nations.

5. In view of the bias of the United S of Israel and its disregard of the Palestinian people, it was not surprising t States had sought the abolition of the Co Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of t People and of the Division for Palestini related programme had been ado overwhelming majority of Members Nations in support of the rights of the whose territory had been occupied, dispersed and their homes destroyed. policies undermined the rights of the Pale in order to ensure protection for continued to occupy Palestinian terri Syrian Golan. The United States was a the Security Council from taking t measures under the Charter to put an aggressor to and to implement the releva The statement by the representative States was incompatible with the oblig

country as a sponsor of the peace process. Although his delegation was not surprised at the one-sided position of the United States it did find it surprising that the related political issues had been raised in the Fifth Committee, which should deal solely with financial matters.

6. The Organization was entitled to be provided by the Member States with the resources it needed to implement its legislative mandates without conditions. The position of the United States, in making its fulfilment of its obligations conditional on the discontinuation of a number of programmes and the reduction of the budget for a number of others, and on the implementation of reforms on which detailed reports by the Secretariat were still awaited, amounted to blackmail. The United States was thereby continuing a practice it had followed since the financial crisis of the United Nations created by that Member State in the early 1990s.

7. The 2005 World Summit Outcome was the basis for the reform of the United Nations, which had in fact started some years previously. The reforms should be aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization in implementing the legislative mandates determined by Member States in a transparent and responsible negotiating process. Reform was a means to an end not an end in itself and must be implemented on the basis of specific and detailed information provided by the Secretary-General. Reform must not be based on a single vision involving the use of blackmail by one State in order to achieve its own objectives.

8. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) thanked Member States for the warm reception they had given to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. He would confine himself to responding to the questions that had been raised on technical matters.

9. Questions had been asked about the growth rate, in particular whether a zero real growth rate provided an adequate level of funding for the priorities of the Organization. He wished to point out that the proposed programme budget had been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 59/278 on the budget outline and that the growth rate or otherwise of the proposals under consideration reflected the decisions taken by the Member States.

10. In connection with the Development Account, the Secretariat had been asked how the proposals had been put together and about the level of funding and had also been urged to explore innovative ways in which the programme could be adequately funded. The level of resources in the budget for the Development Account was consistent with the budget outline proposals that had been reviewed the previous year and the proposals were fully consistent with General Assembly resolution 59/278. He drew attention to the recent review of the Development Account and of the regular programme of technical cooperation contained in document A/59/397. The report, which was scheduled to be considered at the current session, included a number of important proposals on operating modalities for both programmes. An assessment of funding arrangements for the Development Account was also addressed in paragraphs 108 and 109 of the report.

11. The Secretariat had been asked to explain the level of appropriations sought in connection with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It had been said that the appropriations were at the same level, despite the emphasis in the Summit Outcome on the priority that should be given to African development. The table in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget (A/60/6) showed the resources allocated to the priorities approved under the budget outline. A growth rate of 1.7 per cent was shown for NEPAD, which was above the 0.1 per cent average growth rate for the budget as a whole. The revised estimates for the implementation of the decisions of the World Summit would also take into account the resources needed to carry out the required actions in that area. He recalled that the estimated overall effect of requirements for additional funding for development and implementation of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, fell outside the scope of the programme budget but would amount to some $50 billion.

12. Responding to concerns that had been expressed that not all budget sections had been submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for consideration, in particular sections 9, 23, 24 and 27, he recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 58/269 had established new procedures on a trial basis for the review of the biennial programme plan, the budget outline and the proposed programme budget. The new procedures had been designed to ensure that the Committee for Programme and Coordination, while

not reviewing the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for any particular biennium, would nevertheless have the opportunity to review those budget fascicles whose programme narratives differed from those approved in the biennial programme plan. In the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007, the only changes to the programme narratives as a result of mandates approved by the General Assembly subsequent to its adoption of the biennial programme plan occurred in the budget fascicles for the newly established Department of Safety and Security. Accordingly, a new programme for safety and security had been prepared and issued in document A/59/806 for review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination. Budget fascicles had been carefully reviewed to ensure that they were consistent with the terms of resolution 58/269, as a result of which corrigenda had been prepared for two budget fascicles, section 28A and section 28E, in order to ensure full consistency between the programme narratives in the fascicles and those in the biennial programme plan that had been adopted. Resolution 58/269 specified that the new procedures would be in place for a trial period with a view to taking a final decision at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly on the format, content and duration of the strategic framework. Should those new procedures be adopted, the regulations governing programme planning would be revised accordingly.

13. In reply to questions as to why such a large proportion of discontinued outputs were from the development areas of the budget and what was the process for discontinuation, he confirmed that over 40 per cent of the outputs programmed for discontinuation fell within the economic and development areas of the budget (parts IV and V). Outputs programmed in those areas tended to be time-bound and were often replaced with new outputs related to the strategies refined and adjusted for each successive biennium. The development areas of the programme budget had benefited from the rationalization and consolidation of outputs and discontinuation was only undertaken after detailed inspection by programme managers in the course of their preparation of programme budget proposals. The outputs proposed for discontinuation therefore reflected the submissions of individual programme managers.

14. A number of delegations had asked about developments in the area of cost accounting. The study on that issue was under way and on schedule. It was expected to be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session.

15. Concern had been expressed about expenditures on travel, based on comments by ACABQ and taking into account the availability of videoconferencing. Travel requirements were always reviewed carefully and the overall reduction of $14.3 million for staff travel, as shown in table 4 of the introduction (A/60/6 (Introduction)), was due to a technical downward adjustment of $13.7 million to reflect the provision of resources for special political missions as a lump sum under "Other" and other reductions under both non-recurrent and recurrent adjustments. The Secretary-General was therefore recommending a reduced rather than an increased provision for travel.

16. Concern had been expressed over the amounts budgeted for consultants. The requirements for consultants had been subject to detailed review resulting in an overall reduction of $22.1 million, which was composed of a technical downward adjustment of $17.5 million to reflect special political mission travel funds as a lump sum under "Other" as well as a reduction of $4.5 million throughout the programme budget.

17. In responding to a number of concerns that had been expressed on the level of extrabudgetary funding and its effect on priorities, he cautioned against generalizations in the review of extrabudgetary estimates, which were composed of many different sorts of funding, and pointed out that the projected increase from $5.4 billion to $5.6 billion was a nominal movement and represented a smaller upwards adjustment than the overall increase under the regular budget in both absolute and proportional terms. Extrabudgetary resources were difficult to project and too much reliance should not be placed on current estimates which were the best available at the time. He also pointed out that over 75 per cent of estimated extrabudgetary resources were subject to intergovernmental review and that the estimates for extrabudgetary resources included the peacekeeping support account the components of which were subject to review by the Fifth Committee.

18. In response to a question that had been raised, he said that no revised fascicle would be issued for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), but that the revised estimates for the implementation of the

World Summit Outcome would provide an update of the overall level of resources to be made available to the Office. The total resources available to OIOS would therefore be the sum of what was contained in the fascicle and the revised estimate for the World Summit.

19. In reply to one delegation which had asked about the financial impact of implementing the mandatory mobility policy in 2007, he said that the costs were not expected to be significant. Travel would not be involved in all cases under the mobility policy, the bulk of which involved staff moving within a duty station rather than between duty stations. Provision for travel on transfer as well as on appointment and separation from service was provided within the common staff costs provisions. No separate request was made for mobility of staff and no significant overall effect on the budget was expected. Nevertheless, the Secretariat would monitor the impact on common staff costs as the programme evolved, beginning in 2007.

20. A number of comments had focused on the suspension of recruitment in the General Service category. The Secretariat had already made a recommendation to the Committee on the matter. The freeze had had an effect on the current budget proposals and some members believed that an opportunity had been missed to take into account the effect of changes in technology. The staffing table currently before the Committee showed a reduction in General Service posts, which had released resources for the strengthening of the junior Professional ranks. That change reflected changes in technology.

21. He wished to emphasize the interconnectedness between consideration of the proposed programme budget and the follow-up to the World Summit. Those two items would be inextricably linked during the course of the current session, which was why the Secretary-General, in presenting his budget proposals, had placed particular emphasis on more effective management. The Secretariat fully shared the view that the oil-for-food programme was a special operation and that the conclusions of the investigation should not be used to negatively characterize the staff of the Organization as a whole. Nevertheless, the reputation of the Organization as a whole had clearly suffered tremendous damage in the aftermath of the oil-for-food programme and it was therefore entirely appropriate for the Summit to examine Secretariat and managerial reforms as one of a number of substantive priorities requiring attention. In that context, the call by the Summit for an evaluation of the United Nations auditing and oversight system and the reiteration of earlier recommendations by the General Assembly for a comprehensive review of governance structures, principles and accountability provided a timely response to both current and longer-term issues. The necessary resources for undertaking those reviews, together with the reviews of regulations and rules and additional measures for strengthening oversight systems would shortly be presented to the Committee. The Secretariat looked forward to careful consideration by the Committee of the budget as a whole and to its support for the provision of the necessary resources to ensure a successful follow-up to the resolution adopted by the Summit in September.

22. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that a number of delegations had implied that the Advisory Committee had exceeded its mandate, apparently in reference to the respective roles of the Advisory Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). As the Advisory Committee's broad mandate had not been restricted since 1946, it would be helpful if delegations could inform him of specific instances in which it had exceeded its mandate.

23. Recalling that some delegations had asked why ACABQ had not quantified its recommendations for cost reductions, he said that the recommended reductions did not significantly affect the overall level of the budget, as noted in paragraph 125 of its report (A/60/7). If any of the recommended reductions were to be accepted by the General Assembly, they would be taken into account in the recalculation that was traditionally done by the Secretariat and submitted to the Fifth Committee prior to the adoption of the budget by the Assembly. The main thrust of the Advisory Committee's recommendations was to ensure the most efficient use of resources, and a number of its observations and recommendations could result in savings, which could be set out in a performance report.

24. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for Palestine) said that his delegation was currently reviewing the proposed budgets for the Organization's various Palestinian programmes and would submit relevant comments and recommendations in due course, with a view to strengthening those programmes. It also wished to

associate itself with the related statement made at a previous meeting of the Committee by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

25. He had taken the floor in response to statements made by one delegation and by certain Secretariat officials at the Committee's previous meeting (A/C.5/60/SR.14), indicating that those concerned were actively trying to circumvent General Assembly mandates on programmes relating to the question of Palestine. The delegation in question had called for the abolition of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and of the Division for Palestinian Rights. That was an inappropriate action because the Fifth Committee was a technical committee and should not be politicized.

26. The relevant resolutions adopted each year by the General Assembly addressed the various aspects of the question of Palestine in a reasonable, comprehensive and balanced manner, based on the principles of international law and international legitimacy. They also reflected the permanent responsibility of the United Nations to pursue the question of Palestine until it was resolved in all its aspects. Palestine would continue to assert the important role of the Organization and the need for Israel to respect and implement United Nations resolutions. It would also work with its friends and partners to reaffirm the fundamental principles and positions in the relevant resolutions.

27. Mandates that were regularly submitted for adoption by Member States should not be subject to review by the Secretariat, since their mere submission represented a thorough review by the General Assembly, and that was certainly the case with the mandates and programmes relating to the question of Palestine.

28. **Mr. Jonah** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation did not share the Controller's view that the report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme should not lead to radical reform of the Secretariat, since the report had revealed serious flaws in the Secretariat, including weaknesses in administration and lack of integrity. The remarks made by some Committee members, to the effect that the report should not be linked to the reform proposals, did not seek to deny the direct link between the findings and Secretariat reform. Rather, they reflected the fear that certain other delegations were trying to use the findings to introduce administrative and structural reforms that were not in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

29. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), supported by Algeria and Yemen, said that discussions on the programme budget were not the appropriate forum for the review of mandates called for in the Summit Outcome. Such an approach was not technically sound and should be strongly discouraged. Any review of mandates should be carried out by the appropriate intergovernmental body and through the appropriate intergovernmental processes, including through CPC.

30. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it had been made very clear during negotiations on the Summit Outcome that there should be no special activity by the Secretary-General with respect to the reviewing of mandates. There was an established procedure for such review activities and the Outcome did not negate that procedure in any way. All mandates should therefore be maintained until the General Assembly took a relevant decision. The Group of 77 and China was prepared to achieve a resolution on the budget proposals, but on a purely unconditional basis.

31. **Mr. El Naggar** (Egypt) said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by the Observer for Palestine on the proposed programme budget, as well as the statements made earlier in the meeting by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Syrian Arab Republic, and South Africa. Neither the Committee nor the programme budget provided the appropriate framework for the discussion of political issues.

32. His delegation wished to reaffirm its full support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination, as provided for in the relevant United Nations resolutions. All United Nations resolutions should be provided for financially, on an unconditional basis, and the General Assembly alone was mandated to define and review the Organization's various programmes and mandates. ACABQ had exceeded its mandate in its report on the proposed programme budget, not only with regard to CPC but also with regard to the General Assembly. It had criticized the General Assembly in several paragraphs of the report and had reflected certain

national positions that had been previously rejected by the General Assembly.

33. His delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Sierra Leone concerning Secretariat reform. The international community's desire for reform of United Nations management was not merely a response to the findings of the report on the oil-for-food programme. With respect to CPC, his delegation appealed to the Secretariat not to reinterpret the resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 58/269 on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation. Objective adherence to that resolution was essential to the success of the budget-cycle reform experiment.

34. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) said that his delegation supported the statements made by the Observer for Palestine and by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning the question of Palestine. Cuba would not accept any pressure from delegations that wished their national positions to be included in the resolution on the programme budget. Neither the Secretariat nor Member States should attempt to use any scandal involving the United Nations to apply pressure with respect to the proposed reforms, which were intended as a way to improve the Organization, not as a response to a scandal.

35. Cuba wished to know why the Secretariat had prepared the report on the progress of and lessons learned from the redeployment of posts experiment, which had been requested under General Assembly resolution 58/270. Neither Member States nor the Secretariat should reinterpret agreements reached under General Assembly resolution 58/269.

36. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), responding to members' comments, said that it had not been traditional practice to quantify individual outputs in the budget proposal. Under the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (PPBME), the level of financial resources to be linked to programmes was determined at the subprogramme level. However, the Secretariat was looking into the issue in the context of cost-accounting studies requested by the Committee.

37. The Secretariat was well aware that the mandate review requested in paragraph 163 (b) of the Summit Outcome was a request to the General Assembly and other relevant organs, and that the Secretariat's role was limited to facilitating the review through analysis and recommendations.

38. The Secretariat had not reinterpreted General Assembly resolution 58/269. It had established an interpretation during negotiation of the resolution, when it had been asked to provide mock-ups of the narratives that would be presented. Those narratives had originally consisted only of the logical frameworks, but he had then come to understand that some delegations wanted the narratives to also include the orientation paragraphs of the individual budget sections. The Secretariat did want the experiment to succeed and would be happy to work with delegations to ensure that all interpretations of the instructions in the resolution were understood by all concerned.

39. With respect to the linkage between the budget and the follow-up to the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting, delegations might not have fully understood his intended meaning. It was the Secretariat's position that managerial reform was justified on its own merits. It had already been on the General Assembly's agenda and had merely been reiterated at the High-level Plenary Meeting. He would circulate his earlier statement to the Committee in an effort to clarify that position fully.

Financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

40. **Mr. Moffat** (Officer-in-Charge of the Economic, Social and Human Rights Service in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (A/60/360), said that UNITAR resources remained unstable. Since 2001, the average level of voluntary contributions had met approximately half of the cost of maintaining its core training programmes for international cooperation and multilateral diplomacy. Those programmes could be maintained if UNITAR received a subvention from the regular budget to meet rental and maintenance costs. The annexes to the report contained further financial information in support of the recommendation for a subvention.

41. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/7/Add.4), which in his view required no explanation, said that its main recommendation was that it was for the General Assembly to decide whether or not UNITAR should receive a subvention (paragraph 6).

42. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the role of UNITAR in the eyes of Member States had not changed since its foundation in 1963. The Institute existed to provide training for their representatives to the Organization and to conduct research aimed at promoting economic and social development.

43. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/252, had encouraged the Institute's Board of Trustees to increase participation and reduce costs by holding events in a wider variety of locations, including the regional commissions' host cities, and, in its resolution 59/276, had called on UNITAR to maintain its level of training and manage its programmes in a viable manner. Her Group was puzzled at the recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding compliance with resolution 59/276, as UNITAR had apparently fulfilled the resolution's request regarding the level of training. The Advisory Committee should also clarify the Institute's progress in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, including those relating to the geographical distribution of UNITAR staff.

44. Rent and maintenance costs affected the Institute's ability to conduct its core training programme effectively and in accordance with its Statute. The General Assembly had considered that problem regularly since 1997. Following its request to him in resolution 52/206, the Secretary-General had concluded that the only possible source of predictable support for UNITAR was a subvention from the regular budget.

45. Although the efforts of UNITAR to improve its financial situation by fund-raising and promoting its facilities had succeeded, the temporary surplus in its accounts was caused mainly by income from the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than voluntary contributions received. It would fall into arrears once again if there was a downturn in special projects. The Group therefore supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the General Assembly should consider providing an annual subvention, and believed that the issue must not remain perennially on its agenda.

46. **Mr. Longhurst** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Institute's work was valuable, but having considered its financial difficulties and the failure to fulfil a number of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, the European Union would find it difficult to consider a subvention from the regular budget. UNITAR should continue to use voluntary contributions as its main source of funding, address the matter of its arrears to the Organization, and implement all outstanding Board of Auditors recommendations. The European Union would like more information on such action before it could judge whether a subvention was genuinely needed.

47. **Ms. Shah** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased that UNITAR, which had played an important role for many years, had achieved its objective of increasing the balance of its General Fund to $1 million and hoped that its Board of Trustees would continue to set fund-raising targets. It noted, however, that the Special Purpose Grants Fund had tended to receive more contributions than the General Fund. Perhaps that was a sign that donors were more interested in the Institute's specialist training than in its core training programmes.

48. The mandate of UNITAR, whose activities were funded by voluntary contributions, must be respected and her delegation was disappointed that the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/360) had proposed to the General Assembly only one method of providing long-term, sound and predictable funding of rental and maintenance costs, namely, an annual subvention from the regular budget, rather than more creative and innovative solutions. Those costs should not be funded by a subvention. Discussion should continue to find other methods.

49. **Mr. Stähli** (Switzerland) said that his country welcomed the effort to improve the balance of the UNITAR General Fund, to which it was a principal contributor, through fund-raising and more systematic

charging of the 13 per cent of programme support costs (overhead) to programme grants. The Swiss authorities had asked for the consequences of the substantial General Fund surplus to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the UNITAR Board of Trustees.

50. As the regular budget subvention requested had been reduced, his delegation was willing to discuss it, but the figures provided in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/360) were not a precise enough basis for a decision and must be refined. It also wished to encourage the Executive Director of UNITAR to promptly implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors.

51. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that his delegation's views on the need for budgetary discipline, especially in the use of assessed contributions, were well-known, and applied as much to UNITAR as to other issues.

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.4)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.4

52. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.4, which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Ireland.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.4 was adopted.*

Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.3)

54. **Mr. Saizonou** (Benin), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.3, said that, as part of the agreement reached during the informal consultations on the item, he had been asked to state that, during the informal consultations, the Committee had not endorsed paragraph 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/386). Some delegations felt that the recommendations and observations it contained were unclear and confusing. The Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee had verbally certified that the proposed reduction of $1.1 million was intended as a technical adjustment to the overall level of operational costs and not targeted at any specific programme. Some delegations had felt that the text of the paragraph, in particular the footnote, did not correspond to the rationale given by the Acting Chairman. Other delegations were satisfied with the oral clarification provided by the Acting Chairman. The Committee, as part of the agreement, had requested him to encourage the Advisory Committee to make every effort in future to draft its observations and recommendations in clear and concise terms. The Committee, furthermore, expressed appreciation to the Acting Chairman for attempting to clarify the intentions of the Advisory Committee.

55. He also wished to draw attention to, and to request correction of a discrepancy in the French text of the draft resolution between the title of the agenda item and the title of the draft resolution.

56. **Mr. Xudong** Sun (China) said that he wished to draw attention to a further discrepancy. While the English text of paragraph 10 of the draft resolution read "*Decides* not to endorse paragraph 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee", the equivalent Chinese text meant "endorse" rather than "not to endorse".

57. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the appropriate Secretariat translation services would be informed of the textual discrepancies and the draft resolution would be corrected and reissued for technical reasons.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.3, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.